

**REMARKS:**

By the above amendment the Applicant has amended the claims to

- reduce the number of claims,
- eliminate multiple dependent claims,

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Following is a description of the amendments:

**Claim 12:** The new text rewords the claim in a clearer way.

**Claim 40:** It is a modification of claim 13. Claim 13 actually mixed the functionalities of  
 10 PARTIAL RESULTS and of INCREMENTAL COMPUTATION, as defined in the text. Claim  
 40 basically removes the paragraph starting by “optionally...”. The final wording, thus, is  
 compatible with claim 13 and with the Description.

**Claim 41:** It is a summary claim that encompasses claims 17 and 18.

**Claim 42:** It is a modification of claim 31, along the same lines as claim 40.

15 **Claim 43:** It is a claim that links claims 37 and 38

**Claim 44:** It is a claim that rewords 39